

# APCD Analytic Workgroup: Efforts to Enhance Data Quality Assurance

October 18, 2011



DIVISION OF  
Health Care  
Finance and Policy

# Introductions

- Betty Harney (Director of Data Enhancement and Standardization)
- Kathy Hines (Director of Data Compliance and Support)
- Marc Prettenhofer (Project Manager – Senior Business Analyst)
- Young Joo (Director of Data Strategies)

# Objectives for today's meeting

- Review the goals and objectives of the APCD Analytic Workgroup
- Define data quality assurance and present a framework for activities
- Identify challenges to data quality assurance
- Discuss the impact on research and analysis
- Address questions submitted by workgroup participants

# APCD workgroups support DHCFP's efforts to ensure data quality, accuracy, and reliability

- APCD Analytic and Technical workgroups serve an advisory role for:
  - Enhancement of data integrity and completeness
  - Improvement of data quality through shared experiences and best practices
  - Identifying and fostering partnerships across government agencies, businesses, providers, payers, researchers, consumers, etc.
  - Developing future strategies to support key health care reform initiatives

# APCD workgroups will discuss key issues and make recommendations for enhancements to the APCD

## Example 1: Data Quality Assurance

### Analytic Workgroup

What clinical or financial measurements can be used to evaluate data quality assurance?

How can derived or summary data be utilized to measure data quality?

What are some innovative approaches to ensure APCD cross-file quality assurance?

### Technical Workgroup

What standard field-level edits and intake rules would enhance the data quality of the APCD?

What adjustments to field-level thresholds should be made to enhance data quality?

What quality assurance checks can be completed by payers before data submission?

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### Technical Workgroup

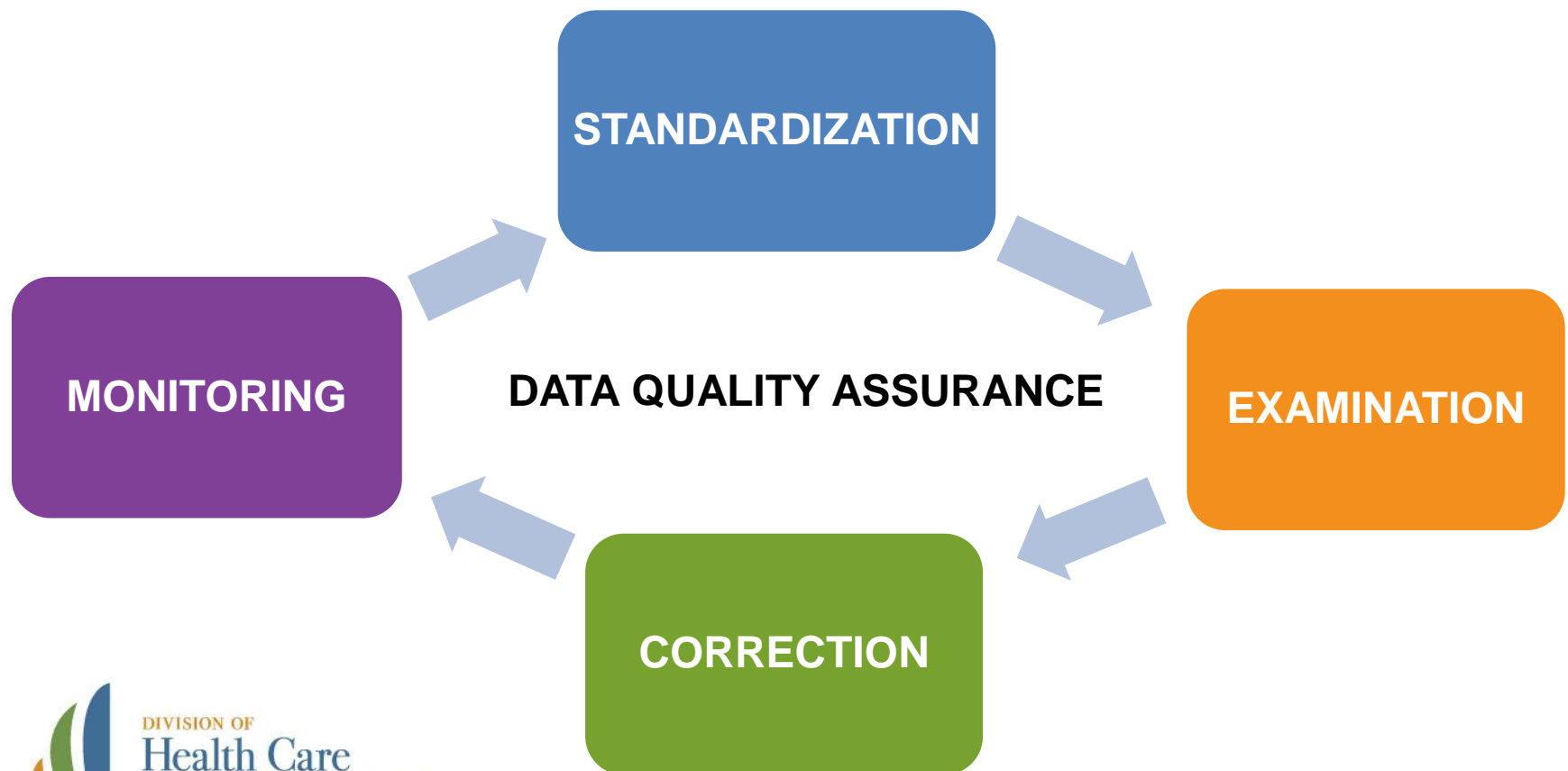
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# How does the APCD define data quality assurance?

- A process which utilizes various tools for standardization, examination, correction, and monitoring of data in order to facilitate reporting of accurate and reliable analyses.

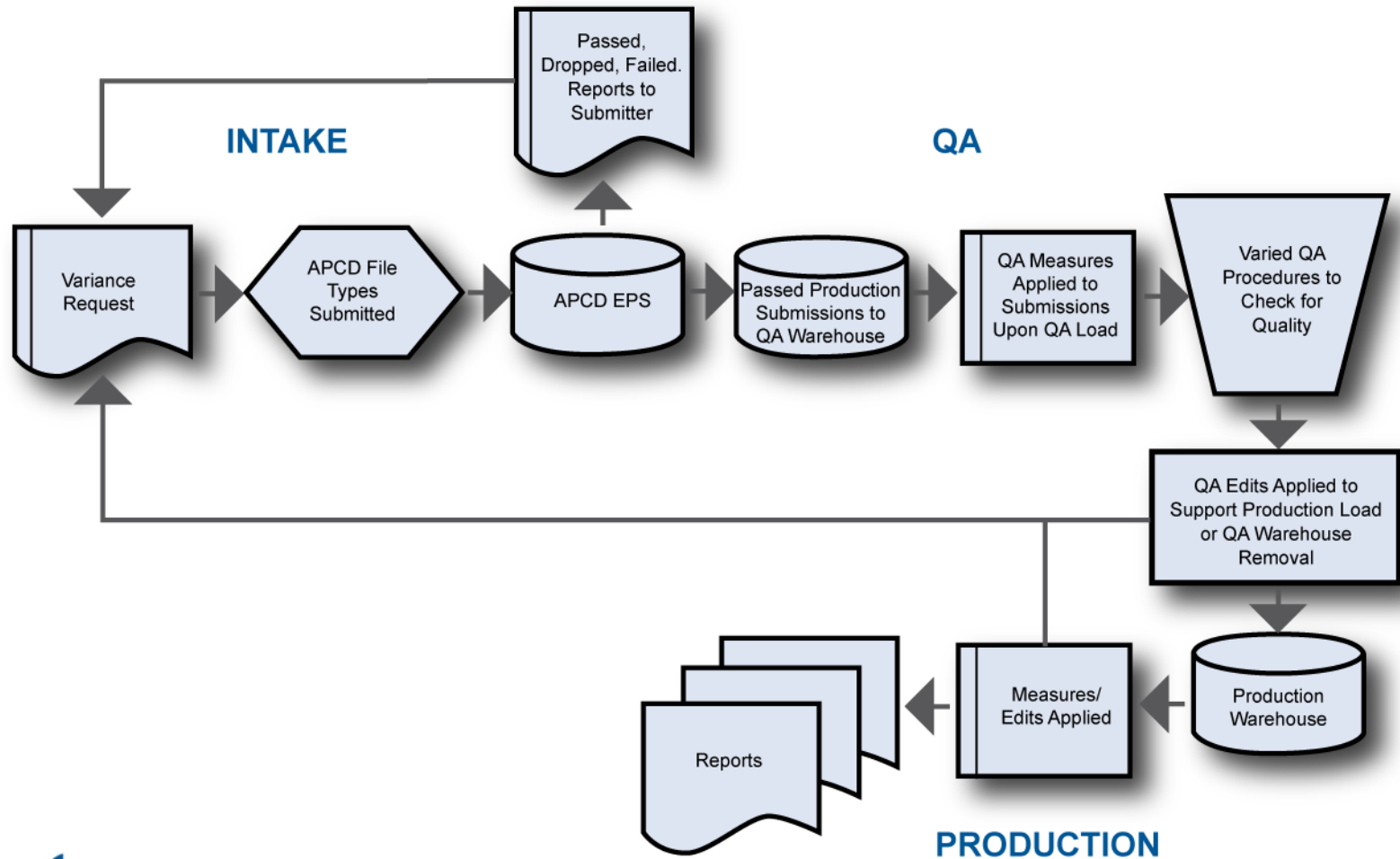


# Efforts to enhance data quality assurance

Standardization	Examination	Correction	Monitoring
Alignment of technical specifications and definitions	Implementation of variance request process	Resubmission or replacement of data	Passed, dropped, failed reports to data submitters
Documentation of data intake edits and rules	Application of data intake rules and edits	Removal of data inconsistencies and anomalies	Documentation of potential changes to technical specifications
APCD Council / NAHDO efforts to standardize collection of core data elements ( <a href="#">Link to Fact Sheet</a> )	Production of QA measures and reports	Interpolation of data	Trend analysis



# Review of Massachusetts APCD Data Flow



# Impact of quality assurance on research and analysis

- How “good” does data have to be to support your research and analyses?
- Data Completeness
  - How many covered lives are included in the APCD?
  - What percentage of Race, Ethnicity, and Language (R/E/L) fields are being reported by health care payers?
  - Does the APCD capture services provided by Nurse Practitioners?
- Data Accuracy
  - What is the distribution of male and female Massachusetts residents in the APCD?
  - What limitations does a <5% reporting of R/E/L have on tools for indirect estimation?
  - How are claims-based cost analyses affected by the reported distribution of services performed by Nurse Practitioners?

# Q&A session

- Questions from webinar participants
- Questions emailed to DHCFP ([dhcfp.apcd@state.ma.us](mailto:dhcfp.apcd@state.ma.us))
- Open discussion

# APCD Analytic and Technical Workgroups

## Upcoming Schedule

**APCD Technical Workgroup**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

**APCD Analytic Workgroup**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

For meeting materials and information, please visit:

[www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd](http://www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd)